

Exodus 35:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.

Analysis

The prohibition against kindling fire on the Sabbath (שְׁבָתָת, shabbat, or שְׁבָתָתְךָ, shabbat'ekha) specifically addresses the metalworking and cooking required for tabernacle construction. This detail demonstrates that God's commands extend to specifics—even necessary and holy work must cease on the seventh day. The fire prohibition became foundational in Jewish halakha, showing how God's holiness permeates every aspect of life, including the mundane act of fire-making.

Historical Context

Fire-kindling was essential for ancient metalworking, which would be extensive in creating the tabernacle's gold, silver, and bronze furnishings. This specific prohibition prevented craftsmen from justifying Sabbath work as 'necessary for holy purposes.'

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the specific prohibition of fire-kindling illustrate God's concern for both the spirit and letter of His law?
2. What does it mean that even work for God's house must submit to God's pattern of rest?

Interlinear Text

בְּ יּוֹם שְׁבָתִיכָּם תְּבַעַר וְאַשׁ לֹא מִשְׁבְּתִיכָּם בְּכָל אֶשׁ תְּבַעַר וְאַשׁ לֹא

H3808 Ye shall kindle H1197 H3605 throughout your habitations H4186 H3117

no fire H784

בְּ שְׁבָתָה:
upon the sabbath

H7676

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 16:23 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.

Exodus 12:16 (Parallel theme): And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.